

180356

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT**

I. HEADING

Date: July 31, 2003
Subject: J-Pitt Steel Melt Shop Site, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
From: Brad Benning, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 5
To: R. Worley, U.S. EPA, OSWER, Washington, D.C. FAX 703/603-9133
R. Karl, U.S. EPA, Chief, ERB, Chicago, IL FAX 312/353-9176
B. Bolen, U.S. EPA, Chief, RS2, Chicago, IL FAX 312/353-9176
L. Nachowicz, U.S. EPA, Chief, RS3, Chicago, IL FAX 312/353-9176
W. Messenger, U.S. EPA, Chief, ESS, Chicago, IL FAX 312/353-9176
J. Maritote, U.S. EPA, ERB, Chicago, IL FAX 312/353-9176
G. Narsete, U.S. EPA, ERB, Chicago, IL FAX 312/353-9176
S. Kaehler, CDOE, Chicago, IL..... FAX 312/744-6451
S. Hersh, USEPA, ORC, Chicago, IL.....E-Mail

POLREP No: Final

II. BACKGROUND

Site No: B5Y2
Response Authority: CERCLA (PRP)
CERCLIS No: ILN000508169
NPL Status: No
State Notification: ILL. EPA
Status of Action Memorandum: Signed 7/16/01
Enforcement Status: AOC signed 8/3/01
Start Date: April 5, 2001
Completion Date: July 31, 2003

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA PRP lead removal action

B. Site Description

The J-Pitt Steel Melt Shop Site is a former steel making operation located in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The site, located in an industrial area at 3151 South California Avenue, has been abandoned since 1997. The site is bordered to the north by the Chicago Illinois Western Railroad tracks, to the east by a scrap metal operation, to the south by the Chicago Sanitary District Canal (the Canal), and to the west by California Avenue. The site consists of a large industrial building in good condition, divided into three sections. Section one, the northern most section of the building is approximately 630 feet by 98 feet, section two is 760 feet by 60 feet, and section three, adjacent to the Canal, is 530 feet by 72 feet. Scattered throughout the facility are large pieces of steel making equipment, including a furnace, baghouses, a cooling tower, and numerous large transformers. Near the furnace in section three, a series of elevated platforms and walkways

remain intact. Large quantities of various industrial materials used in the steel making process, including silica, insulating Tundish spray, and magnesium oxide remain in the building.

C. Description of Threat

Numerous drums, fuel storage containers, paint cans, poly tanks, and miscellaneous small containers are scattered throughout the site. The contents of these drums and containers include oils, grease, acids, paints, cleaning fluids and other unknown materials. Several pits containing unknown liquids are located in sections two and three. In addition, large piles of slag, dust, and flyash are present the building, mainly in section three. Asbestos and radioactive material is also present on-site. Site access is not completely restricted and previous trespassers on-site have removed the majority of the electrical equipment and copper wiring.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED

On April 5, 2001, the City of Chicago Department of Environment (CDOE) discovered artillery shells at the Site. CDOE also observed an oil sheen on the water in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal near the south property line. CDOE requested and received assistance from the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Army to remove the artillery shells and referred the Site to the U.S. EPA. U.S. EPA initiated an emergency response due to site conditions which posed an immediate threat to human health and the environment.

On April 6, 2001, U.S. EPA mobilized Ferguson Harbor, Inc. to the Site to initiate emergency actions. In addition, the U.S. EPA and Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) performed a radiation survey of the Site building, and identified five sources of radioactive material specifically Cesium-137. U.S. EPA performed and guided various response actions at the Site from April 5 through April 18, 2001, and identified potential hazardous substances within the facility which included: resinous material containing 54,000 ppm of PCBs; electric arc furnace dust (K061) located in the baghouses within and outside the facility; heavy metals in dust and ash primarily in the furnace and billet finishing areas; drums and containers with acids, caustics, oils, and solvents staged in the northern portion of the building; Cesium-137 in mold level control devices; and friable suspected asbestos pipe insulation.

On April 6, 2001, U.S. EPA issued a general notice of potential liability to the potentially responsible parties (PRPs). On April 10 the PRPs responded that they would perform work necessary to abate the release, or threat of release of hazardous substances at the Site. A final Administrative Order by Consent (AOC) was signed on August 3, 2001.

On September 17, 2001, the PRPs contractor Burns & McDonnell received approval of the Work Plan and initiated response activities. Monthly progress reports were submitted, totaling 16 reports summarizing work completed under the AOC. A Final Report from the PRP was submitted to the U.S. EPA on February 21, 2003. The following sections summarize the method of completion of each area of the investigation of the Site:

Drums and Containers - approximately 196 drums and 293 containers of various materials were screened, analyzed and categorized for appropriated disposal.

Baghouse Units - two baghouse units were evaluated and remediated, generating 35 tons of K061 dust, 26 55-gallon drums of rinsate water and one roll-off container of contaminated debris.

Former Process Pits - water in six process pits/sumps were sampled and evaluated for potential exposure concerns. Standard risk assessments were conducted based on the substances found and concluded that surface water from the former process pits is unlikely to pose appreciable human health risk. No further action was required.

Damaged Dry Goods - the damaged product materials were evaluated and confirmed to be non-hazardous and therefore do not require disposal to comply with the AOC. No further action was required.

Radioactive Source Materials - four exempt radioactive source rods located within the billet caster molds, and ten radioactive wear indicator needles were evaluated, checked for leakage, packaged and sent for appropriate disposal.

Pipe Insulation Debris - one bag containing approximately one half cubic foot of pipe insulation and clean up debris (35% amosite) was generated from the remediation of the fallen pipe wrap. The ACM was removed for appropriate disposal.

Resinous PCB Material - surface samples were collected in the vicinity of the leaking PCB capacitor after it was containerized during the initial response work. Results were below the 25 ppm clean up level for low occupancy areas and therefore no additional work was required.

Slag Piles - the two outside slag piles were sampled and evaluated utilizing a streamlined risk assessment, which concluded the piles are non-hazardous and unlikely to pose an appreciable human health risk. No further action was required.

Surface and Subsurface Soils - surface and subsurface samples were collected and analyzed for heavy metals likely to be present at the Site. Results were evaluated utilizing a streamlined risk assessment and blood lead exposure model, which concluded that onsite soils are unlikely to pose an appreciable human health risk. No further action was required.

Subsurface Oil Release - four test pits were excavated to investigate the ongoing oil release into the canal. Analytical results identified low levels of PCBs and TPH as Oil in all of the test pits with one pit containing free-product. Based on the depth of the oil impacted soil and the analytical results, the source of the TPH and PCBs identified in the test pit samples appears to be a petroleum source rather than a transformer oil spill from the transformer switch gear room. The investigation was completed pursuant to the AOC, but the PRP is coordinating with the Illinois EPA to address the oil release issue.

Munitions - PRPs made arrangements for the disposal of munitions through the ATF by the U.S. Army "EOD Unit" from Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

B. Next Steps

Pursuant to the AOC a "Notice of Completion Letter" will be sent to the PRPs, along with an estimate of U.S. EPA oversight costs.

C. Key Issues

None

V. ESTIMATED COSTS

	<u>Used</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>Percent Remaining</u>
ERRS	\$ 30,000	\$ 35,000	15%
START	\$ 6,500	\$ 25,000	73 %
U.S. EPA	\$ 11,000	\$ 28,200	61%
PRP	\$ 429,128	NA	NA

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on amounts known by the OSC at the time of the preparation of this report. The cost accounting data shown in this report does not necessarily represent the exact monetary figures which the U.S. Government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

<u>Wastestream</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Disposal Facility</u>
Artillery Shells	258	Fort McCoy, WI
K061 - Electric arc furnace	35.58 tons	Waste Management CID Area 4
K061 - Rinsate	26 drums	EQ Michigan Disposal
K061 - debris	10 tons	Waste Management CID Area 4
Radioactive Sources	10 wear needles 4 source rods	Radiametrics, Inc. Lorain, Ohio
Asbestos Debris	1 bag	Mallard Ridge Landfill Delavan, WI
Drum/Containers/Cylinders	Multiple	SET Environmental, Inc.